

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 0229

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/82

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT SHELTER BRIEFING.

EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG). MEETING JAN 15, 1974

REF: USNATO 0146

SUMMARY. US AIRCRAFT SHELTER ANALYSIS BEIFING TO EWG ON JAN 15 WAS WELL RECEIVED. WHILE BRIEFING ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES, ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNED SCOPE OF THE SHELTER ANALYSIS, ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SHELTERS AND THE OPTIMAL SHELTER LEVEL. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN ANALYSTS OF US, UK AND FRG, A CONCSSENSUS EMERGED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A TRILATERAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER STUDY DESIGNED TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL SHELTER PROGRAMS AND TO DETERMINE SHELTER LEVELS FOR THE UK. END SUMMARY.

1. US BRIEFING TEAM PRESENTED AN ANALYSIS WHICH HIGHLIGHTED SECRET

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THE INCREASED PERCENTAGE OF SURVIVING AIRCRAFT AS THE LEVEL OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS IS INCREASED AND THE NEED FOR COLLOCATED BASES. MANY QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY EWG MEMBERS AFTER THE BRIEFING. THEY

CENTERED AROUND THE EFFECT OF SHELTERS ON WARSAW PACT FORCES AND TARGETING, THE ECONOMIC UTILITY OF SHELTERS RELATIVE TO DIFFERENT METHODS OF AIRCRAFT PROTECTION, THE EFFECT OF NUCLEAR WITHHOLD POLICIES, AND THE CATEGORIES OF AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT CONSIDERED IN THE ANALYSIS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, US EXPERT EXPLAINED THAT ECONOMIC ASPECTS WERE NOT ADDRESSED IN THE STUDY ANALYSIS, BUT CONCEDED THAT A COST EFFECTIVE LEVEL OF SHELTERS COULD BE DETERMINED IF A LINEAR SHELTER COST IS ASSUMED. HE AGREED THAT THE RATE OF SHELTER MARGINAL PAYOFF APPEARED TO CHANGE AT 90 PERCENT LEVEL. GEMAN AND SHAPE REPS' QUESTIONS UNDERScoreD NEED TO LOOK AT EFFECTIVENESS OF 70 PERCENT SHELTER LEVEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER AIRFIELD PROTECTIVE MEASURES SUCH AS POINT AIR DEFENSE. ANOTHER AREA OF INTEREST WAS THE PROJECTED PROGRAM EFFECT ON WARSAW PACT AIRFIELD TARGETING POLICIES. BRIEFING TEAM MEMBER STRESSED THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS, BUT IN ANY EVENT THE PACT ATTRITION RATE WOULD BE INCREASED DURING ATTACK ON AIRFIELDS WITH SHELTERS. UK REP EMPHASIZED WE ARE DEALING IN FUTURE INVESTMENTS AND ASKED IF THE ANALYSIS WOULD BE VALID FOR PROJECTED NATO-WP FORCE CAPABILITIES. BRIEFING TEAM CHIEF POINTED OUT THE ANALYSIS DID CONSIDER THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT EXPECTED TO SHELTERED THROUGH 1978. FINAL QUESTIONS ADDRESSED NUCLEAR WITHHOLD POLICIES AND AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT. US ANALYST SAID THE SMALL NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WITHHOLD AIRCRAFT HAD VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON SURVIVING AIRCRAFT, AND THAT US AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT WERE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF SURVIVING AIRCRAFT AS THE LEVEL OF SHELTERS IS INCREASED.

2. EWG CHAIRMAN IN HIS SUMMARY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND STRESSED THE GREAT VALUE OF THE BRIEFING, BUT CAUTIONED THAT MORE ANALYSIS WAS NEEDED TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT AND THE INTERACTION OF OTHER AIRFIELD PROTECTIVE MEASURES. US REP SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S VIEW AND OFFERED US ASSISTANCE IN FOLLOW-ON EWG AND NATIONAL STUDIES.

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3. DURING AN INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN ANALYSTS OF US, UK AND FRG, CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THAT A TRILATERAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN EARLY FEBRUARY, PROBABLY IN BONN, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER STUDIES DESIGNED TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL SHELTER PROGRAMS AND TO DETERMINE SHELTER LEVELS FOR THE UK. THE REPRESENTATIVES AGREED THAT THEY WOULD ADVISE THEIR AUTHORITIES AND SEEK GUIDANCE ON ACCEPTABLE DATES AND LOCATION FOR SUCH A MEETING. IT WAS FELT THAT THE MEETING SHOULD LAST ABOUT THREE DAYS AND THAT A FOLLOW-ON MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AS NATIONAL STUDY EFFORTS PROGRESS, PROBABLY IN WASHINGTON.

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